

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
H-405, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky,

We write to respectfully urge you to provide robust funding for the National Guard Counter-Drug Program and the National Guard Counter-Drug Schools in the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) Defense Appropriations bill. We request that any additional funds provided beyond the FY19 President's budget request for the National Guard Counter-Drug Program are specifically allocated for National Guard state plans.

The National Guard Counter-Drug Program provides linguists, criminal analysts, communications, engineering, transportation, cannabis suppression, and ground and aerial reconnaissance to support law enforcement agencies. As you know, the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats is responsible for the budgeting process for Department of Defense (DoD) counter-drug activities, and distributes counter-drug funding to the National Guard Bureau. The National Guard Bureau then allocates counter-drug funding to states using a threat-based resource model to ensure funding will be used to the greatest effect to protect our communities. We request that any additional funds the Committee provides beyond the FY19 President's budget request go directly to the states for their counter-drug activities, and are not diverted elsewhere within DoD through the funding allocation process.

Additionally, this request would support the five National Guard Counter-Drug Schools across the country that provide counter-drug training for criminal justice professionals and awareness training for community leaders. Every year, these schools provide training to hundreds of thousands of students that prepares them to combat drug-related crimes and transnational threat networks.

The illicit drug trade is a threat to the health of our communities, and to our national security. The National Guard is uniquely positioned to apply military-specific skill sets to efficiently disrupt the supply, demand, and cross-border trade in illicit drugs. We encourage you to continue your strong support for this program.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress



Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress




Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



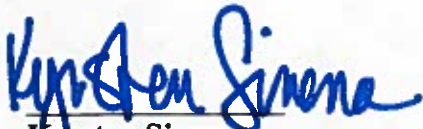
Stacey L. Plaskett
Member of Congress



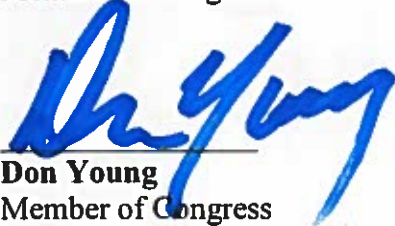
Jacky Rosen
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress